

Remarks

The Specification is amended to address the objection thereto. Reconsideration of the objection to the Specification is thus requested.

Claim 12 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Claims 1, 8, and 13 are rejected under 35 U. S. C. § 102 based on Parsons, U. S. Patent No. 4,735,186. The Examiner cited column 1, lines 51-52, of Parsons to support this rejection. The complete sentence in which this citation is found reads as follows:

“The *reformed fuel* may be under sufficient pressure, e.g. 25 to 100 lbs per square inch, from the exhaust gas supply, but it may be pressure-charged into the engine e.g. by turbocharging or supercharging.” (Emphasis added) (Parsons, col. 1, lines 49-52)

This excerpt discloses turbocharging or supercharging the reformed fuel, *not air*. As such, Parsons fails to anticipate the method of claims 1 and 13 comprising “operating a turbocharger so as to produce pressurized air” and the fuel reforming system of claim 8 comprising “a turbocharger having a pressurized air outlet.” Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1, 8, and 13 based on Parsons is thus requested.

Claims 1 and 8 are rejected under 35 U. S. C. § 102 based on Lamm, U. S. Patent No. 6,311,650. Lamm discloses an autothermal reforming reactor, not a plasma fuel reformer. As such, Lamm fails to anticipate the method of claim 1 comprising “advancing the pressurized air through a plasma fuel reformer” and the fuel reforming system of claim 8 comprising “a plasma fuel reformer having an air inlet fluidly coupled to the pressurized air outlet.” Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1 and 8 based on Lamm is thus requested.

Claims 1 and 8 are rejected under 35 U. S. C. § 102 based on Wakamoto, U. S. Patent No. 5,894,728. Wakamoto discloses a reforming catalyst, not a plasma fuel reformer. As such, Wakamoto fails to anticipate the method of claim 1 comprising “advancing the pressurized air through a plasma fuel reformer” and the fuel reforming system of claim 8 comprising “a plasma fuel reformer having an air inlet fluidly coupled to the pressurized air

outlet." Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1 and 8 based on Wakamoto is thus requested.

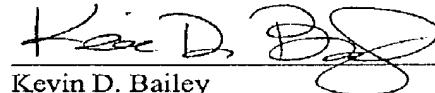
It would not have been obvious to combine Wakamoto and Bromberg, U. S. Patent No. 6,560,958, as proffered by the Examiner in the March 8, 2004 official action. Wakamoto calls for production of a reducing agent *oxygen*-containing compound such as an alcohol with two or more carbon atoms per molecule (see Wakamoto from col. 1, line 67, to col. 2, line 3). The oxygen-containing compound is introduced into the exhaust gas for reduction of NO_x at a NO_x catalyst. Wakamoto criticizes a reducing agent "which does not aim at an oxygen-containing compound such as, especially, an alcohol" and details disadvantages of such a reducing agent (see Wakamoto, col. 1, lines 34-45). As such, Wakamoto would have lead one of ordinary skill in the art away from use of Bromberg's plasma fuel converter which produces *hydrogen rich gas* (see Bromberg, col. 2, lines 60-62).

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration of the claim rejections of all pending claims is requested.

It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response and shortages in other fees be charged, or any overpayment in fees be credited, to the Account of Barnes & Thornburg, Deposit Account No. 10-0435 with reference to file 9501-72886.

Respectfully submitted,

BARNES & THORNBURG



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